

Turkish and Greek Cypriots mark the anniversary of momentous events that have shaped the last 30 years of the island's history. The events of July 1974 have been the subject of much debate, controversy, and unfortunately, distortion. The United States has worked long and hard to help bring peace to Cyprus, and as both sides of this divided island struggle to achieve a stable and prosperous future for all Cypriots, it is important for this House to put history in its proper perspective, to separate fact from propaganda, and to create a fair and balanced understanding of the issues that divide the island's two constituent peoples (the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots).

It is easy to assume that the history of the Cyprus conflict starts in 1974, but this is far from the truth. The origins of the Cyprus conflict can be traced back to the Greek Cypriot drive for Union with Greece (enosis), a movement with roots that can be traced as far back as the later days of the Ottoman Empire. The modern history of the conflict, however, stems from the 1950s and 1960s.

From 1878 to 1960, Cyprus was ruled by the British. When the island achieved independence from the United Kingdom in 1960, it was with constitutional guarantees for power sharing on the basis of political equality. The constitution foresaw (and still foresees) a bi-communal structure, and the peaceful co-existence of Greek and Turkish communities side by side. The president was to be Greek, and the vice-president to be from the Turkish community, each with the power of veto.

Unfortunately, differences in language, culture, religion, and national traditions, ended this vision by late 1963 when a political crisis and inter-communal violence broke out. In November 1963, Makarios, the first president of Cyprus—a Greek Cypriot—submitted a plan aimed at amending the constitution. However, the changes proposed removed most of the checks and balances which had been built into the constitution to ensure the safety and equal status of the Turkish community.

Matters came to a head on in December of that year, when armed Greeks attacked a suburb in Nicosia, killing or capturing those Turkish Cypriots who were unable to escape. Armed conflict spread, with the Turkish Cypriots withdrawing into enclaves to defend themselves. A buffer zone was set up and manned by British troops in a largely unsuccessful attempt to stop the fighting. These were later replaced by United Nations troops in March 1964, troops which are still there to this day. For the next ten years, the enosis campaign of the Greek Cypriots cost the Turkish Cypriots many lives and untold suffering, as well as their partnership position in the Cyprus government.

Former United States Undersecretary of State, George Ball, who, among others, as actively dealing with the crisis at the time, remarked in his memoirs entitled *The Past Has Another Pattern*, that Makarios has turned: "This beautiful little island into his private abattoir" (P. 341). Ball went on further to say that: "Makarios' central interest was to block off Turkish intervention so that he and his Greek

Cypriots could go on happily massacring the Turkish Cypriots" (p. 345).

For example, in March 1964, well armed Greek forces attempted to crush the Turks at Erenkoy on the north coast, in order to interrupt the alleged flow of munitions from the Turkish mainland: they would undoubtedly have succeeded had not the Turkish air force intervened. This act added a new dimension to the conflict. Fear of Turkish intervention sobered the Greek Cypriots somewhat, and they settled down to a systematic economic blockade of the Turkish enclaves. Further armed conflict in 1967 provoked Turkey to threaten military intervention, but with the takeover of Greece by a Military Junta, and an economic boom occurring on Cyprus, enosis seemed less attractive and the violence subsided.

However, intervention finally came in 1974. During the presidential elections of 1974,

Makarios clearly announced the cause of enosis, and was re-elected. He subsequently ordered the withdrawal of mainland Greek officers from the Island, whereupon the National Guard, which was under the command of those same mainland Greek officers loyal to the Junta, stormed the presidential palace in Nicosia, although President Makarios escaped. In the face of this bloody coup, which brought the island to the brink of political extinction and a humanitarian tragedy, Turkey, which was treaty-bound to act as a Guarantor State, was forced to undertake action. As a result of this legitimate and timely action, Turkish Cypriots were saved from imminent destruction, bloodshed among the Greek Cypriots was ended and the independence of Cyprus was protected.

U.N.-led direct talks between the two sides to reach a comprehensive settlement to the division of the island began in early 2002, and reached a culmination when simultaneous referenda were held on each side on April 24, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, it is remarkable that, after all they have gone through, the Turkish Cypriots have continued to demonstrate a genuine desire to settle their differences with their Greek neighbors in a peaceful and amicable way through negotiations. In the referendum of April 24th, the Turkish Cypriots voted 65 percent to approve the U.N. plan for reunification of the island. In contrast, the Greek Cypriots gave the plan a resounding no by a 3 to 1 margin, effectively leaving all settlement efforts in limbo. Yet, in an ironic twist of events, it was the Greek Cypriots who were allowed to enter the European Union in May while the Turkish Cypriots, like their counterparts in Turkey, continue to be left out in the cold.

Under the circumstances, I agree with U.N. Secretary-General Annan when he cited in his latest report on the situation in Cyprus, that there is no justification for keeping the Turkish Cypriots in isolation from the rest of the international community. The restrictions that have been imposed on their economic, political and cultural activity internationally should be lifted. Turkish Cypriots must be allowed to enjoy the benefits—benefits they were guaranteed under the 1960 independence agreement, which any peaceful, democratic society deserves.

Fair and equal treatment of the Turkish Cypriots can only benefit the island as a whole and further facilitate the achievement of a negotiated settlement.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO KARL KRAMER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to an expert firefighter investigator from Monte Vista, Colorado. Karl Kramer risks his life on the job every day to help people in need in his community and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous sacrifices before this body of Congress and this nation.

Karl has served the Monte Vista Volunteer Fire Department for more than two decades and currently serves as the president of the Colorado State Firefighters Association. Recently Karl turned his fire investigating role into a full-time career, when he opened his own Fire investigation business called Southern Peaks Investigation. Many different organizations depend upon his sound judgment and risk to his health in determining the cause of a fire. Karl maintains that he began working as a fire investigator because he really wanted to do something for his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Karl Krammer for his many years of dedicated service to the Monte Vista community. Karl's risk to his own safety and health have taken him away from his friends and family on many occasions, and I am grateful for the selflessness he has demonstrated to aid others. I am proud to recognize his efforts before this body of Congress and this nation, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING TECRO REPRESENTATIVE C.J. CHEN

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2004*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, during the past 4 years, relations between the United States and the 23 million people on the Island of Taiwan have remained strong. One of the reasons our ties with the Republic of China on Taiwan have endured has been due to the excellent diplomatic skills of C.J. Chen, Taiwan's Representative at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office ("TECRO") in the United States. TECRO is Taiwan's unofficial embassy here and Representative Chen—or C.J. as he is known to his many friends on Capitol Hill—is Taiwan's unofficial ambassador.